located in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) had initiated anti-dumping investigation on 17.7.2002 into the import of mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in or exported from Peoples' Republic of China. Definitive anti-dumping duty was imposed on mulberry raw silk from China PR at the rate of difference between US $ 27.97 per kg and the landed value of import with effect from 2.1.2003 for a period of five years.

The Central Silk Board and other silk manufacturers associations who have approached the DGAD for initiating fresh anti-dumping investigations into the alleged dumping of silk fabric from China PR, were advised to provide full details and justification. All interested parties including the Chinese Government are duly notified if a decision is taken to initiate anti-dumping investigation in this case.

Return of Indian Chillies from European markets

†2942. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are media reports about presence of carcinogenic colour in red chillies exported to Britain and other countries of European Union;

(b) whether it is also a fact that news regarding presence of banned Sudan-I dye in Indian spices and chillies are spreaded in entire Europe;

(c) whether it is also a fact that chillies exported to Britain are being returned;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get those goods tested again in Indian laboratories; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to avoid such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Since the material considered to be adulterated is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

not returned to the exporter, it is not possible to draw samples therefrom for testing in the Indian laboratories.

(e) In order to avoid concurrence of Sudan dye contamination in the export of chilli and chilli products from India, Spices Board has started conducting compulsory sampling of all chilli/chilli products export consignments from India and testing it for Sudan I, II, III and IV and aflatoxin. With effect from 10th March, 2005, no consignment of chilli, chilli products or other food products containing chilli in whatsoever form shall be exported unless a certificate is issued by the Spices Board certifying that the consignment does not contain Sudan I to IV and aflatoxin beyond acceptable levels and, therefore, is fit for export to the identified destination.

Major chilli producing States had also been advised to initiate and sustain action with the specific objective of preventing use of Sudan I by the food industry.

Exit of Tea Business by Tata Tea

2943. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Tea Company has decided to exit the Tea Plantation Business in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has submitted any plan to transfer seventeen tea gardens to a new private limited company to be formed by a group of its own employees; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) As per the information available, M/s. Tata Tea Limited has 8 freehold estates spread across Kerala and Tamil Nadu and 17 estates in the 'concession area' which reportedly is in the Kannan Devan Hills. The 'concession' area represents land given on perpetual lease by the Poonjar Chief over 100 years ago. It has been reported that M/s. Tata Tea proposes to arrange sale or transfer of the 8 freehold estates outside the 'concession area' subject to approval of their shareholders. As per the information available, the company has